

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 6

May-June, 1960

DOLLS BY CAROLYN JOHN

Because you've looked at the picture first, we shall start with a detail, but such a detail—this one outstanding portrait doll of sainted Joan of Arc! Miss John

chose to portray the girl from village Domremy-la-Pucelle at the inspiring beginnings of a career never matched in the ages of history. The year was 1429 when Joan, convinced of her sacred mission, persuaded a captain of the Dauphin's troops to supply her an escort; the suit provided was a page boy's coat, so richly here portrayed in sky blue felt, with matching banner — both studded by French fleur-de-lis in gold. Her limbs though are encased in proper mail, all gilt trimmed silver; footgear is most cunningly contrived with flower-like spurs of gold out from her heels.

Height of the doll is 14 inches, the standard 20 inches tall. She's No. 199J, priced \$57.50.

Miss John's working hours are much in demand, she does take time for touring, but very few dolls by this perfectionist are carved, portrait painted and clad in any one year. Our fortunate as-

sociation dates back some fifteen years, and quite a few Kimport collectors do possess an autographed treasure of her creation. Before listing the others which she

has made for us currently, a "tangent," please. Our own "pedigree pages" enhance the standing of stock dolls, both foreign and domestic. When some dollmaker does one-of-a-kind things, this page may be a "Dolls of," this time, "Carolyn John," from which these quotes:—

"Woodcarving is not only a challenging craft — it definitely rates in the ranks of fine art. Classic examples include much in religious art, both pagan and Christian. There are perhaps as many graven gods and saints as there are painted ones. Secular, sheer art carvings, and yes, commercial (wooden Indian!) also account for the cre-

ative work of many more artist-craftsmen. Certainly good wooden dolls, or those with hand carved heads are apt to be top favorites in any well chosen collection. We at Kimport are proud to offer to our collectors those ever human doll folk, created by Carolyn John. They may be picture-book children



from literary lore, some character of stage or opera, random ones from city streets, or a romantic gypsy! All are fashioned with whimsical artistry, all are perfect in proportion, color and detail, because Miss John is not only a teacher of art, but a painter and sculptress as well. Do notice the soft, dull skin texture, and the moistness of eyes and lips—remarkable, isn't it?"

Because collectors who justly estimate the enduring value and consummate class of such doll masterpieces, the subjects portrayed may be inspired in quite rarified realms—'Know what we mean? Well, "Highbrow!"

The group which is coming through now, may grace some of the best selected libraries in our country! Subjects are chosen from Pilgrims, men and women, who first lived in the facile mind of one Geoffrey Chaucer, the Pilgrims who made their devout journey from Southwark to Canterbury. Stopping by night, each in turn wove on his own continuing tale of knights and villains, saints and scoundrels, some episodes beatific and some that would not pass our liberal censors of today, emerging as "The Canterbury Tales" in 1388.

"Lady Abbess, now on my desk, in her medieval habit of heavy black with snow white wimple, carries a well worn Testament, wears a broad gold 'bride' ring, and crucifix with pearls. She is 15 inches tall, No. 199N, \$45.00.

These other three are being sent out to San Francisco for our doll show there. "The Clerk" by Miss Carolyn John, is one of

Chaucer's favorite Canterbury Pilgrims. His tale for the edification of his twenty-eight fellow travelers was the "Patient Griselda." Costumes are the 14th century. No. 199C, \$55.00.

"The Reeve," ranked neither with the "gentles" nor ecclesiastics, in that classic group of Canterbury Pilgrims. "Shire-Reeve," became our "sheriff," and the tale told by the green cloaked one was broad and rowdy. No. 199R, \$45.00.

Carolyn John's exquisite "Knight" was undoubtedly the most regal of Chaucer's twenty-nine Pilgrims, who journeyed from the old Tabard Inn to the shrine of Saint Thomas A'Becket. No. 199K, \$75.00.

CHRIST AT THE PORTAL

In every land, under every condition, against all competing interests, the Christ story seems ever new and sweetly appealing. Our local Christian Church bulletin recently carried this little missionary story.

"A story of the 'Christ Child' doll in Costa Rica is told by Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Swander, missionaries to Mexico, who studied in that country.

"At midnight on Christmas Eve the Christ Child doll is placed in the portal (doorway)," the Swanders report. "Then the family eats tamales and imported foods bought for the occasion. This Catholic custom helps to focus attention upon the meaning of Christmas, but many other events of the season in Costa Rica detract from it. There are parades with mounts and riders, street dances and bullfights."

WITH UNCLUTTERED MIND

Believe it or—say "Oh No!" as I did when the most jumbled up snapshot grouping imaginable tumbled out of Edna Bousman's last letter. Yes, 'tis the same Mrs. Tracy B. who had a page story in last June **Spinning Wheel** entitled "Decorating with Dolls!" There was a handsome grandfather's clock—as Eugene Field would have said, "Up with its hands before its face;" no wonder, as boxes on the spinet, framed portraits, etc. stacked sidewise and written word to the effect the remodeling and redecorating, etc. will be nice as the plans—'provided I survive to enjoy it.'

And what had this of Dolls for **Doll Talk** readers? Answer is, the most unperturbed and dignified big glass-eyed papier-mache sitting serenely in her own same ladder back chair as pictured in that afore-mentioned story. Don't dolls have the most perfect dispositions!

Patricia Prudence

Patty Pru, Patty Pru
What can your mamma do
To keep from feeling blue
Like to the likes o' you?

THANKS, BETH

Here are another couple of dabs of information from good friend, Mrs. Herr, who has a little Doll Shop in Abilene, Kansas.

"In regard to 'Flirty Eyes' in bisque dolls, I have one made by Cuno & Otto Dressel, Germany. The owner said it was called a 'Flossie Flirt' doll. I also have a beautiful bisque A.M. child doll head marked 'Duchess'."

OH, WE'RE SELECTIVE

Helen Cohn is a doll-of-the-month friend whose selections run medium high priced. 'Come her twelfth, in a couple of months, it will be accompanied by a free one to match the average of her twelve.

Recently, Miss Cohn wrote about another Michigan collection of over 300 dolls, "A good thing they were under lock and key!" That fortunate collector had traveled with her husband throughout many long years and into remote corners of the world, Siam, parts of India and China, even Tibet and the Himalayas. Then the quote which really thrilled us . . .

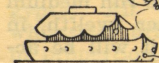
"What interested me no end was that quite a few of the dolls she picked up personally on her trips, are identical with some Kimport has sent me, the Indians of Peru, for instance. I have been so pleased with your selections that I have no suggestions for the balance."

EVER ASPIRING

'Could be that we've a special fondness for collectors writing in about their granddaughters. Anyway, there came a challenge which we hope to meet in a letter from Mrs. Fred Nettleblade of Connecticut.

"My granddaughter displayed her foreign doll collection at school during United Nations Week, which received many compliments from both teachers and students. She hopes to have an authentic doll from each of the eighty-four nations that are grouped together as 'U.N.'"

LATE ARRIVALS



"Francisca" is an 11" doll from Ronda, a small town in the south of Spain, surrounded by a ridge of mountains of the same name. In more primitive times, these rugged hills were infested with robbers and highwaymen. Many of these men were deserters or even veterans of the Spanish army who upon leaving the service, took their uniforms with them, particularly the bright short "chaquets" with braided epaulets. These jackets became almost a universal uniform among these brigands and is today widely affected by the modern Spanish ballet dancers. "Francisca" is indeed a dancer but along



the lines of traditional Spanish folk dancing rather than ballet and the most striking part of her costume is her "chaquet" with gold epaulets and red trim. The remainder of her attire includes a narrow waisted dress that flares full at the hips into an enormous circle with gold trimmed flounces, pointed red shoes and a tiny "pill box" hat with fluffy pom-poms over tight head scarf. She is a shapely lass of all cloth construction with sultry painted features and flirting eyes. Wire frame under her cloth arms and legs enable her to strike a provocative dancing pose in keeping with the clicking castanets in her hands. A polished light hardwood base keeps her posed securely. No. 1002, \$6.95.



An all time favorite at Kimport is the cunning Israeli Newsboy imported from Tel-Aviv. This industrious 7½" lad is on the run as he hawks his bundle of the local Yiddish paper.

Face is very life-like, modeled of hard composition and artistically painted. Costume is properly rag-

gamuffin and he stands securely on individual wooden base. No. 893, \$5.95.



From the neighboring but none too friendly Arab country of Turkey, we are delighted to introduce "Hursi," No. 870, Warrior-Dancer from the Zeybek tribe which inhabits the area near Smyrna. All cloth made, eleven inches tall, he is colorfully dressed in white shirt, blue vest, short pants and knee stocking, all ornamented with bright red and yellow trim and red fez with black tassel. His thick rolled multicolored sash is topped by leather sword belt with leather sheath for his distinctive curved scimitar. Features are hand painted on a modeled mask construction. No beauty, this stout tribesman but an authentic representative of a fierce fighting race. \$8.00.

The turbulent Arab nations provide us with another new pair of



nomadic tribesmen in 8½ size, each carrying a little ten page book, "Les poupees d Algerie." Direct from Algeria come the Mufti or Holyman in baggy balloon trousers, fancy braided coat, bright sash and shirt, with a gaudy striped fez under the pure white bur-noose cloak and hood, No. 106. His companion is a Laghouat desert girl in red, yellow and green robes covered by a snowy white cape and turban. Her tan leather boots mark her as a woman from a race of horsemen and nomads, No. 106A. Both dolls are dark complectioned, sturdy celluloid with well defined features. She has long black braids of hair while he sports fierce fur eyebrows and mustache! \$5.95 each.

Another all wooden is a toy that children love—the Jappy Acrobat. Six inches tall are the posts, with a bar between, upon which this dumpy, smartly enameled performer does flip-flops. Old stock, so limited in quantity. No. 812, \$1.00.



The rock ribbed fortress island of Malta provides us with a charming 8" girl in an unusual costume dating back to the middle ages when the Knights of St. John used the island as a base for harrying the Moslem world. This attire includes lacy front blouse, full skirt and distinctive hooded black cape from which our island lass derives her name of "Faldetta," No. 285A, \$6.50.

Q. Do you have any Manuals published by Doll Collector's of America? Do they come out once a year? What price?

A. As of now we have some copies of their last—1956-57 Manual, 119 pages, postpaid at \$4.15. There have only been four previous, all highly informative editions of 1940, 1942, 1946, 1949.

A YEAR—MORE OR LESS

Like some other artistic doll enthusiasts, Martha Cramer of Ohio pictured a large doll holding a baby doll as her Christmas card. Most effective! Then she wrote:—

"Please, now! Don't make us get older any faster. I've been re-reading the Nov.-Dec. *Doll Talk* in which you say girls back in 1927 loved the Shirley Temple dolls. Shirley is just a year older than I. She was born in April, 1928. I got my Shirley Temple doll for Christmas when I was in the 4th grade. 'Twas the Christmas I had chickenpox. She wore a blue pleated organdy party dress that tied to her wrists with pink bows. Alas! She was passed on to a cousin when I (temporarily) outgrew dolls."

NO CURE FOR COLLECTING

"I was calmly confident," wrote Mrs. Eva Bray of Texas, "that I was cured of the doll fever—until I stopped off in Independence this past summer. Now the two Grandma Ritchey dolls are side by side on the shelf, with a Belleek pig at their feet, and they attract more notice than any other variety of things I display at the fireplace end of the room. Now comes the newest *Doll Talk*, and my fever is rising.

"Here is a list of five, including a Welling and a Belling, which strangely enough I have never had. Will you decide which it should be—first? Here's a thought: Maybe you could send one on and put the rest away to ship as paid for."

"Good idea," says Kimport. "We'll follow through!"



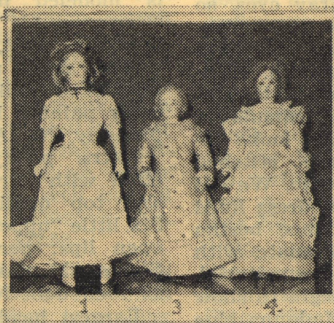
So often we hear or read in your letters such words as, "but dolls, Dolls are so much like People!" There are old sayings, also, 'pretty as a china doll—lovely as an old wax doll.' These pretty ones may also have individuality, but for that more human aura, there are compositions, waxed or plain (Greiners, etc.) woodens, character bisques, manipulated cloth, leather, and papier-mache, which is technically one of the compositions.

A group of dressmaker or fashion dolls clad in their adult finery, is one collection which is a dream to cherish. As a pair, then a trio, etc., become grouped together, your requests come for a next who looks different; this want, provided we have any on hand, is comparatively simple as this is one long favored doll type which sim-

ply exudes the charm of beauty plus individuality.

So, first to these ladies, and we'll begin with the one numbered 2 in our panel. She is the most expensive, really rare type, a wooden bodied Jumeau with face as beautiful as her jointed and carved body is choice! Bisque shoulders fit perfectly over the wooden ones from which her arms have been cunningly fashioned to not only move up and down but out; elbow, wrist, hip and knee joints also can follow the movements of the human body. Blue blown glass eyes, pierced ears, and, of course, as have all the five pictured, closed lips. There is a strand of blue ribbon braided along with her hair, old bronze leather shoes with four buttons, "J" marked, hand-made undies and taffeta suit which is almost the shade of her boots; old turban, blue velvet with black, is as smart and becoming as it was eighty odd years ago. Unusually perfect condition, this choice one is No. A270, \$275.00

Next in line might well be a candidate for Beauty Queen! She



breezed into Kimport via England, with purple velvet ribbons binding up her curls, darling old earrings and a golden studded cross—wearing French underclothes, no gown, no shoes! We did launder the train backed petticoat and change her hands from impossibly rusted kid, substituting an old cherished pair of slender, creamy bisque. "Gibson Girl" type, as shown in picture 1. Swivel, two piece head and shoulders, extra clean, erect kid body, and if you like, we could include special old silk to make her gown. No. A419, 12 inches tall, \$150.00.

Oldest and smallest of the five is 10 inches tall, another blond with lovely coloring, braids bound around her pretty head; enameled, not glass, blue eyes and shoulder head date her as earlier 1850's, we'd think; body hand-sewn, well-shaped and in quite good condition, one tiny leather finger only is missing. Her panties are yellowed with age; pale blue satine dress styled and stitched with dressmaker precision might well be as old as this doll, No. A279, \$95.00.

Next is a dainty debutante who is irresistibly lovely with eyelash lines all around her gray eyes, so fine one can hardly see them without a magnifying glass! She has pierced ears, closed mouth, slender little face, and head that swivels onto deep bisque shoulders. Body is unusually clean, looks almost new; hands are stitched leather, original, of course. We did launder her white lawn dress lined with scrim. Insertion, lace bertha and several ruffles alternate with little narrow strips of the material. The picture does not begin to show how sweet it is, with Madonna blue

bows at the sleeves and at the back; real hair wig is new but a very fine one from France and definitely becoming. No. A418, 11 inches tall, priced \$145.00.

Next, and last pictured, is a plump cheeked Mamma—some way she reminds us of Ethel Merman; a very pale, exquisite Jumeau bisque, the eyes of blown glass type that is set up on porcelain; pierced ears, closed mouth, swivel head on deep bisque shoulders; original wig, and an especially cute old velvet and satin milliner hat. The blue woolen dress is old, too, the back of it more elaborate than the front with a blue velvet panel that bustles out, while at the front it hangs apron-like; blue kid slippers which came on her, and again, a very nice, clean, kid body; leather hands with separate fingers. This mamma lady is 13½ inches tall, No. A340, at \$160.00.

Since our *Primer Page* this time condenses some of the facts concerning metal doll parts, we have accumulated the following group to offer here. First, six heads only:

5½ inch Minerva marked, original finish with painted dark blue eyes, parted lips with teeth. Hair is modeled into tumbled curls. "Germany 6½" on back of shoulders. No. A163, \$7.50.

Cute, small, under 3 inch height, unmarked child head with short curly painted hair; refinished, but properly. No. A960, \$4.00.

Extra pretty chubby Minerva child with dark brown glass eyes and top quality real hair curls. Six little "uppers" betwixt her rosy, open lips; perfect original finish. She would make up into a darling 12 inch doll. No. A252, \$13.50.

Largest head, 6½ inches, stamp-

ed Minerva on chest and Germany 7 on back of shoulders; only slight retouching on scuff spots. We are responsible for giving this nice one a pair of replacement eyes that are Jumeau class, deep hazel brown blown glass. Original old brown hair, and no body nor clothes but a bonnet—brown velvet, becoming! 'Should complete about 25 inches. No. A961, \$18.00

And two, rather rare, brass heads being heavier have not been subject to so many nicks and peels as have distinguished a lot of old tin heads. The blue glass eyed one 4½ inches high is finely painted, slightly open mouthed with the one word 'Patent' raised in large letters across her chest; original blond wig. No. A164, \$13.50.

Brown glass eyed one has, well, 'outstanding' repousse ears, slightly parted lips and boy bobbed brown wig; 4¼ inches high, only marking is a figure 4 on the shoulders; also in splendid condition. No. A165, \$13.50.

The complete doll with "Wear-well" Minerva marked body as well as head, has never been played with. She was noted in this issue's **Primer Page**. Stamped No. 5, 5 inch head size, open mouth with six teeth, original mohair wig over "ball" head. Overall height 21 inches; hair stuffed body of candy pink cambric is made on a good sit down pattern, but of that thick-ankle-stubby-foot era! Wooden arms extend above an elbow bend and have quite well carved hands with separate thumb. No. A219, collector item, \$27.50.

Twelve inch Minnie Minerva is another complete doll, 3½ inch head, with brown glass eyes, long

brown hair and closed mouth. Re-finished and re-dressed, but in one of those cute, old-fashioned tarleton and lace frocks that came on gift boxed dolls long, long ago. Chubby and cute on her pink stuffed body with composition hands and black cambric legs. No. A960, \$10.00.

All metal, that's a different one, American made we're certain, as there is no country of origin marked. Twelve inch Baby with knees bent infant style, jointed hips and shoulders, neck swivels. Baby head is properly large and well modeled with painted blue eyes, closed mouth, old blond wig in just fair, "played with" condition. Long dress is creamy China silk. No. A251, \$18.00.

At least one metal headed doll should be included in any collection of varied antiques, and, you can also read enough variety in them to well appreciate not one alone but a differing group. Eighteen inches tall Miss Gertrude would qualify for a headliner here; her 4½ inch "ball" head is slender, adult looking with old blond wig of straight real hair tied into a little bun. Features are painted on as early china heads with pink line above blue-green eyes, feathered eyebrows; no chips ever on her porcelain smooth complexion. Home-made body with worn leather arms, Miss Gertrude is beautifully costumed in silver green, tiny check taffeta with velvet reverses on the jacket, and her hat, well, it's awfully old but becoming still and a right crowning touch for this No. A255, \$28.50.

We rarely admit to an antique "mystery doll," but one did come in a recent packet from London. Since the booted lower limbs of

this 7 inch little tot are weighted metal, papier-mache head is extremely full cheeked; front and back sections show the join so plainly that it could have had a wig; not chipped or dented but the finish is in poor condition. Upper legs between brass wired hips and tongue and groove knee joints seem to be of wood, like the lower torso, which fits into an upper chest of papier-mache. Chubby hands with tiny wire loop in each seem to be carved wood; cute, old-fashioned frock—and—doll carries a dolly, equally old and intriguing. Maybe some one can put us wise as to the history of what we know was a well loved toy, No. A447, \$18.00.

DISCRIMINATING AND SPECIFIC!

Finding the exact word for naming or describing has ever been a source of satisfaction to anyone who writes. When Winnie Langley and Frances Walker stopped in for a pre-Convention confab last August, one of them mentioned the original "grommets" in the shoulder corners of a Montanari doll they were examining. Until that moment, these little ringed brass gimmicks had been only "eyelets" to me; I became so excited that even talk of buying and selling was neglected. Where had that little exact word "grommet" been all my describing days?

Another such incident came up at Christmas, when several of you used those lithographed, die-cut paper miniatures on cards and packages, so I wrote Marian B. Howard, paper doll authority, "Is there any official name for those sheets of old German paste-ons?

You know, the little figures, Santa Claus heads, different children and flowers, such as you have grouped around the 1880 doll. They came in whole sheets, and somehow, I feel there should be a definite name for them and if there is, you would know what it is."

Miss Howard graciously replied:—"About the little embossed reliefs, I never have seen an early advertisement on these. I do have a set of England's Kings and Queens from William the Conqueror to Queen Elizabeth, 37 rulers on 13 separate sheets, and the container is printed, '13 sheets of Reliefs.' These are by Raphael Tuck & Sons. I also had the soldiers, but passed them along to a museum who had the Kings and Queens and very much wanted the soldiers. There they have a permanent home. I have heard these sheets you mention variously referred to as embossed cutouts, relief scraps, cutouts, but in advertising I always would give a bit of description as to brilliant coloring, size of the reliefs, etc. So many do not recognize what we are talking about. Similar sheets are being currently reproduced, but the colors are brilliant, hard and stiff, compared to the old pliable, mellow-toned ones. I wish you could see my scrapbooks of these early ones."

DO YOU KNOW?

Bebe Jumeau was the first doll trademark registered in U.S. Patent Office by Emile Jumeau of Paris in Nov. 1888, which he claimed having used since 1850.

ACROSS LONG MILES

This from a Doll Talk friend who has been living abroad: "It is only lately, after seeing a collection of Spanish dolls in regional costumes, that I have begun to take an interest in my hobby again. For a long while, I was lost in a world where all that had been familiar had become distorted and grotesque. In time, one learns that life goes on as usual and you have to get about again, even though you can't stop missing every day the togetherness of thirty years' companionship.

"I can make no definite plans until I get through with settling the estate, but I am longing to see my family and friends, so hope to make a trip to the States later. I would love to meet you all someday, and do please continue to send those nice greetings at the end of each year, so we won't lose touch with each other. And of course, never allow my subscription to Doll Talk to run out!

"If ever in the future I can bring about a contact between you and a worthwhile dollmaker here, I shall certainly do so. Those I have contacted so far are not interested, for the reason that the export and import rulings at present entail insurmountable difficulties."

F.K.

A VANTA BABY

Elfrieda A. Harris, whom we know collects small bisques, has at least one large baby of which she wrote:—"Can you tell me the Mfg. of the Vanta Baby bisque head that I have? It is life size, used to be on a composition baby body and they were made to display infants' wear. At the back of the neck is inscribed, 'Vanta Baby L.A. & S., 10, DRGM, Made in Germany'."

Answers are not always so readily at hand, but pending the time when a complete German list of trademarks is compiled, we referred to that Nov. 1955 issue of **Spinning Wheel**, where American Trademarks from 1913 to 1950 were shown. Very often German dolls were patented in the United States, either by their foreign manufacturers or their American agents. Sure enough, the "Vanta Doll" was patented March 22, 1927, by Louis Amberg and Sons of New York. Looking back 33 years we can well remember the Vanta Knitwear, good baby shirts that slipped through slots in which to easily swaddle our children. So-o-you're welcome Mrs. Harris and "L.A. & S., 10, DRGM—unravels as Louis Amberg & Sons, size ten, Deutsches Reichs Gesetz Muster-schutz (patent applied for).

"FORGIVENESS GRANTED"

R.S.M. of Kimport says, having been a teacher—well, art supervisor, and a mother, and a grandmother, that she is inclined to sympathize. The issue was a bit belated subscription fee to D. T., apologizing—

"I am a second-grade teacher and after five days a week with thirty-three seven-year-olds, I do find it difficult to give proper attention to correspondence."

—Mrs. C. S. Franklin, Mich.

"ANY RAGS?"

No Bottles, no Bones wanted today—although at Kimport we surely have had dolls made from all such materials noted in ye olde Rag Pickers' cries! But "rags," also Rag dolls, seem to have surged in popularity this spring. To club meetings the call is "Bring 'em in Alive"—well, stuffed anyway, or "Uncuts Preferred;" advertising novelty numbers like Cream of Wheat's Rastus, Aunt Jemima of pancake fame, Sunny Jim and minny-minny others!

On my March program announcement from **The Doll Collectors of America**, an exhibition of Rag Dolls was to follow the luncheon at Hartwell Farm, a competitive showing with three dolls to a member limit. In their 1942 Manual is a great deal of information concerning cloth dolls.

Luella Hart, who is such an indefatigable worker toward fitting together and finding out bits of doll information, is off on a rag doll tangent, too. It's a club assignment paper for early fall, but as a guess and a hope, we'd say some of her publishers may be using that material later.

Of course, there is a definite group distinction between the yard-age dolls and animals, stamped in usually assured "harmless dyes," and the more shapely made-up cloth dolls from coveted Izannah Walker, circa 1873, to cuddly toy types that will always be lovable toys.

So far **Doll Talk** has only devoted one **Primer Page**—the one on Chase Stockinettes—to an all cloth doll, although there was data and reference on the Sheppard or

Philadelphia Baby in Vol. 13, No. 3.

Back in our Vol. 10, No. 6 (1954) was a feature story based on Cecil Perry's findings on the "Alabama Indestructibles." Mrs. Perry generously adds this now to be passed along to you: "I probably had the only catalog extant, but foolishly disposed of it. How I wish I had it now, because finally the Alabama Indestructible Dolls are coming into their own. Up to now, all the dolls discovered, except mine, were patented in 1905. Mine is 1918. Not all were babies, some were 30 inches or more, and had wigs of very long curls of natural hair."

Any facet concerning collection dolls can be so intriguing—one never knows what will turn up! So, we do go on hoping and hunting and sorting out, and betimes finding a tidbit of treasure, just like the old chap who chanted "Any rags, any bones, any bottles today"—It's the same ol' story in the same ol' way!

JOB'S DAUGHTER—ALMOST!

Mrs. T. W. Alderson, California, sent an after Christmas order for Betsy Ross and wrote:—

"I had planned on giving Betsy to Ashley, my eight-year-old daughter, for Christmas, but in the rush of Brownie Scouts and Boy Scouts, school parties, church affairs, shopping, decorating, I forgot all about the doll not being here. The guppies gave birth, the dog got lost and found, and the whole family got the flu and my in-laws visiting—I almost forgot Christmas. I can't wait until school starts' again and things settle down."

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for one year.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

SHELL DOLL LADY

For many happy years, Laurie and Zella Layton supplied Kimport with ingenious and artistic shell dolls from their Florida home. Their creations varied from tiny Lucy Limpet to a resplendent shell lady, and their skill was lauded in many magazine and newspaper stories.

Of course, the McKims knew the Laytons "way back when," as both families once lived as neighbors in Independence, Missouri. The Laytons did have a Golden Wedding Anniversary several years ago. Kimport was proud of their success and felt a deep personal loss when "Laurie" passed away last year. Then Zella found her eyesight much impaired and the close work on her dolls was difficult. Just now we have had more cheerful news, as she wrote: "Hello McKims—Hope you had a nice Christmas. I had the eye surgery in July, got the glasses in October, and I am coming along fine. Vision perfect so the Doctor tells me. I can count the steps on the pyramids on the back of the dollar bill.

Try it for fun! It surely is nice, seeing the world again."

We are pleased that we still have a few of the Layton shell dolls available, and any collector could take pride in having one.



Our doll representative from Fabulous Florida, made, we think, with equally 'fabulous' artistry, a 6 to 7 inch Shell Girl. She is almost completely composed of delicate shells which form a full length gown, hat daintily decorated with shell posies, and an exquisite bouquet. Her face is cunningly painted on—you guessed it—a shell. No. 190C, \$5.00.

"Lucy Limpet" is a miniature of sheer perfection, whose skirt is a succession of limpet shell flounces. She has an arm bouquet of tiniest shell roses and her prettily painted face is topped with pale blond curls of crushed shell. No. 190L, 2½ to 3½ inches, \$2.95.

DOLL MOTHER INSTINCT

It took a writer like Victor Hugo to philosophize the simple doll loving instinct into the symbol of motherhood. "In the same way as birds make a nest of anything, children make a doll of no matter what . . . A doll is one of the most imperious wants, and at the same time one of the most delicious instincts of feminine childhood. To clean, clothe, adorn, dress, undress, dress again, teach, scold a little, nurse, lull, send to sleep, and imagine that something is somebody,—the whole future of woman is contained in this. While dreaming and prattling, making little trousseaux and cradles, while sewing little frocks and aprons, the child becomes a girl, the girl becomes a maiden, and the maiden a woman. The first child is the continuation of the last doll." From "Les Misérables."

ODD ITEMS

Thornton Wilder in his unique book, "The Ides of March," told of Cleopatra's visit to Rome, and among the presents she brought to Caesar's wife was "an Egyptian palace, no higher than one's knee. And when you take off the front wall you can see all the people inside and there is a barnyard and a royal procession and in the most beautiful clothes and colors. But that is not all. When you start water running, the little people all move, the Queen and all her court walk into the house, up the stairs, and through the house and the animals go and drink in the Nile and a crocodile swims against the water and the women weave and fishers fish!"

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"Guess what! I struck gold! As a reward for painting a vacated apartment, my husband is treating me to this \$30.00 worth of books. I'm so thrilled—all the aches in my muscles have disappeared! To me a doll book is just like having acquired another doll."

—Mrs. Charles Bosansky, N.Y.

"Now that Doll Talk is all paid up to March of 1963, I can just sit back and wait for every issue. Whew—what a wonderful, lazy pipe dream that is!"

—Gladys A. Cole, R.I.

"I have saved every Doll Primer since subscribing and put them into the clear plastic looseleaf pages which also contain any information I receive on doll markings. This certainly makes a resourceful reference in identifying dolls."

—Margaret M. Fabrizio, N. J.

"My husband had some red fungi—it's like dried mushrooms. I deprived some museum collections of some of it. It makes the cutest doll hats (just the right shape) for cornhusk dolls and some rag dolls."

—Catherine Demaree, Ark.

"Your article on Mrs. Walker's scrap book has given me an idea for one of my own. Think that I will have a 'Before and After,' along with what I can find out about the former owners of each."

—Rita Harnish, Ind.

"Your Pegleg the pirate will be Long John Silver, I think, among my collection of book characters."

—Mrs. Gladys Bogue, Minn.

"I shall dress the new Jumeau after Renoir's 'Girl with the Watering Can'—in blue, with lace; then she can stand underneath the framed picture! The period of Renoir's painting fits in with the doll's period, too."

—Alma Ellermeier, Colo.

"We really ought not to build on any more rooms; since last spring we did replace the kitchen with a hugh old-fashioned one with a big cook-onable fireplace. Incidentally, I have my great-grandmother's spinning wheel fastened to the wall and hung with small china dolls."

—Louise N. Oder, Ill.

"Realizing that a slip of the paint brush can make or spoil a nice doll, please pick a nice one for me. I like the dolls in my collection to look happy, mischievous, impish, serene or even sad—but none with sour expressions, please."

—Mrs. F. M. Kelley, Calif.

"Please send the MacLean Clansman, which will take care of my paternal ancestors. I may get a maternal one, later, to avoid any feud among the ghosts!"

—Helen M. Scopes, N.Y.

"My interest in dolls has been awakened again. After traveling in Europe, I have a greater appreciation of your selections now, as well as your prices."

—Mrs. H. W. Stough, N. C.

"Now that I have seen the Minerva heads you sent, I recall that about forty-five years ago, a cousin of mine had a Minerva doll in Germany. We called them unbreakable head dolls."

—Mrs. E. Umback, N. J.

"When this Air Force family settles down and I have space for dolls, I will enjoy adding to our small collection. One can't hang dolls from the ceiling, though I'm tempted!"

—Mrs. Pat Yarbrough, Ga.

"My Spanish shepherd boy is very nice. I like his outfit and his hat is really something. Thanks, for matching up the country girl."

—Marie France, Pa.

"I enjoyed talking with Mr. and Mrs. McKim when they were in Denver and feel that I know most of the family. I attended one of your early exhibits at the J. L. Hudson Company in Detroit in 1942 or 1943, and through the years, have been in the right places at the right times to see your dolls in Seattle and San Francisco. It's been fun!"

—Lucille Derby, Colo.

"Thanks for the newest squaw, an interesting addition, but I can't quite figure why the papoose hangs so low on her back. Heaven help the baby if mamma ever decided to sit down in a hurry!"

—Ethel Averbach, Calif.

"When I was young, I never owned a single doll. Yes, my husband gave me my very first doll as a wedding gift. You can see how I started loving the doll collection idea; the entire family now gives dolls to me on special occasions."

—Lottie K. Hoss, Mich.

"I would like to have an old toy piano to use as a setting for my Little Women dolls."

—Mrs. Donald Ames, N.Y.

DOLL PRIMER: METAL DOLLS HAD THEIR BRIEF PLAY

Metal doll heads were never prime collector items, but they had their own little day! Around 1890, manufacturers were seeking a doll that the youngsters couldn't damage, and at a price under the standard bisque. Until World War I, German doll makers competed for the American trade and metal heads still survive, although through the years the enamel often peeled away to reveal a gleam of brass or a bit of shiney tin. Of course there were metal dolls back to the Middle Ages. They varied from little lead or tin soldiers to priceless gold or silver figures for royalty. Early wax doll manufacturers in England used metal under wax for strength as early as 1850. The Springfield Vermont group made hands and feet of metal for their patented wooden dolls.

Joseph Schon of Germany took out the earliest U.S. patent in 1887 for a metal doll head which consisted of sheet metal in halves riveted or soldered together. The "Minerva" almost synonymous with "Metal Heads," was registered in Germany about 1894 by Buschow & Beck. In 1901, A. Vischer & Co. of New York entered a "Minerva" trademark with the name and an embossed helmet of the Roman goddess on the chest. Kimport has an 8x11" original circular of Vischer's extolling the "indestructible Minerva," picturing and listing all various styles and sizes. There were 6 sizes of dolls, 11" to 18", with modeled, painted hair and closed mouth; 8 from 16" to 25" with painted hair and open lips showing teeth; 9 sizes having sewed curly wigs for both ball head and cut out types. Eyes came painted or inset glass, fixed or moving! Some few socket heads were offered for jointed dolls.

Usually heads only were imported, the bodies of sawdust stuffed kid or cloth being made in the U.S. Interestingly enough, Kimport now has a 21" Minerva doll with a cloth body and wooden arms with carved hands, bearing the body stamp "Wearwell, unbreakable doll, hair stuffed, genuine Minerva head, Made in Germany."

"Minerva" in Roman mythology was the Goddess of Arts and Handicrafts. She was identified by the Romans with the Greek goddess Athena, hence the helmet trademark. Following the same tradition, the "Juno" doll was made by Carl Stanfuss of Germany in 1900 and patented by George Borgfeldt in 1914. It was the closest rival to "Minerva," and in turn had to compete with "Diana", another German doll. Of course there were many metal doll heads bearing no imprint, but following the same diversified styles. Some were tin, others brass or zinc. Even aluminum was used on head, hands and feet of a wooden doll with a 6 pointed star sometimes called the "Star of David" doll. What creative ingenuity doll makers have employed!